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Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities














6 September 2021 (no. 8, 2021)

Upcoming Research Events

6 Monday ONLINE CONVERSATION An Overview of the EU Taxonomy Regulation-related Disclosures 13:00–14:00	7 Tuesday NO EVENTS	8 Wednesday NO EVENTS	9 Thursday NO EVENTS	10 Friday NO EVENTS
13 Monday ROUNDTABLE Pathways for More Inclusive Economics Departments - What Works and What Doesn't? 17:30–19:00 (hybrid)	14 Tuesday GGC Report Launch: Enhancing Due Process in UN Security Council Targeted Sanctions Regimes 16:00–18:00 (hybrid)	15 Wednesday NO EVENTS	16 Thursday NO EVENTS	17 Friday NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes

 Global Health ✓	 Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion ✓	 Peace, War, Conflicts & Security ✓	 Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations ✓	 Arts, Culture & Religion ✓	 Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality ✓	
 Development & Cooperation ✓	 Trade, Finance, Economies & Work ✓	 Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs ✓	 Global Governance ✓	 Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty ✓	 Digital Technologies & Artificial Intelligence ✓	 Education, Information & Media ✓

Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



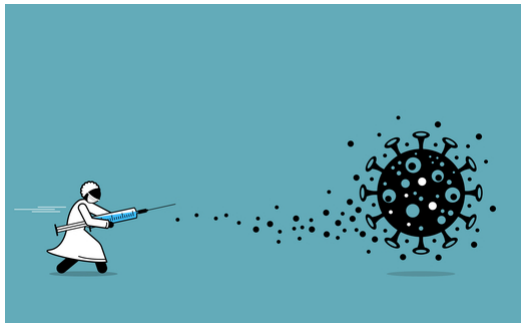
Upcoming
PhD
Defences



Publications by Themes



Global Health



WORKING PAPER

20th Century Disease Eradication Programs and Their Legacies for Health Systems

COVID-19 has disrupted health programmes worldwide, strained resources and prompted a reshuffling of priorities.

Ryan Whitacre, Surabhi Agarwal and Suerie Moon, from the Global Health

Centre, examine the legacies that six large-scale international disease eradication programmes (EPs) conducted over the past century have left for health systems (HS) (Global Health Centre Working Paper 25, June 2021). They find evidence that EPs left important and useful legacies. In addition, EPs had impacts beyond national health systems, including in community networks, contributions to gender equity, and intergovernmental and regional collaborations. Furthermore, all EPs ultimately had to address the question of integration, whether through integration of assets post-eradication or integration into HS in order to continue activities; however, integration did not always benefit health systems, nor EPs.

Repository

ARTICLE

Emerging Infrastructures: The Politics of Radium and the Validation of Radiotherapy in India's First Tertiary Cancer Hospital

Robert D. Smith, Master Student in Anthropology and Sociology, traces the history of India's first tertiary cancer hospital, Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) (in *BioSocieties*, online March 2021). The founding of TMH by the Tatas, an elite Parsi business family in Bombay, represented a form of philanthro-capitalism which both enabled the Tatas to foster a communal acceptance for big businesses in Bombay and provided them with the opportunity to place stakes in the emerging nuclear research economy, seen as essential to the scientific nationalist sentiment of the postcolonial state, in a time when radium for the treatment of cancer was still seen as "quackery" in much of the world. Ultimately, this article identifies ways in which cancer comes to be seen as relevant in the global south and raises questions on the relationship between local

and global actors in setting health priorities.

DOI

PHD THESIS

(Un)Becoming Old: An Anthropology of Aging Biology and the Processes of Senescence, Life, and Death

Introducing the trope *(Un)Becoming Old*, **Lauren Riggs** examines the processes by which biomedical inquiries and (re)definitions of ageing are increasingly enmeshed with longstanding ontological debates over the static or processual nature of “being” (PhD thesis in Anthropology and Sociology of Development supervised by Aditya Bharadwaj, 2021). Following ethnographic networks of scientists, advocates, and entrepreneurs seeking to slow, halt, or reverse ageing, she looks at intersections of philosophy, science, capital, and culture that inform efforts to extend human “healthspan” and lifespan – in turn showing that ageing has become a major site of value extraction by a speculative sociotechnical system.

*PhD thesis embargoed until June 2024; contact **Dr Riggs** for access.*


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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

***Ius Gentium et Naturae*: The Human Conscience and Early Modern International Law**

This chapter by **Janne Nijman** examines how various early modern conceptions of *conscientia* relate to the emergence of *ius gentium et naturae* in the so-called Age of Conscience (in *Christianity and*

International Law: An Introduction, P. Slotte and J. Haskell, eds., Cambridge University Press, May 2021). It starts with the Thomist conception of conscience as “*forum internum*” and analyses the role it played in the work of Spanish Scholastic Francisco de Vitoria when he reconceives *ius gentium et naturae* as a body of law applicable to Christian and non-Christian peoples. *Ius gentium et naturae* was thus entangled with “the power of the pastorate” as Michel Foucault coined it. At the core of the chapter lies a discussion of how Grotius’ conception of the human conscience, which drew on both Thomism and Erasmian humanism, in turn led to a *ius gentium et naturae* disentangled from Roman Catholic moral theology, doctrine, and practice. For Grotius, reason and conscience underpinned a universal law of nature, backed up by a decentralised – internal – court system (“*forum internum*” or “*forum conscientia*”), which was equally operated by Christian, Catholic and Protestant, *Gewissener* and non-Christian sovereigns and peoples alike. Today, “conscience” is uncritically assumed and used in international law. As we have seen time and again, while human conscience is the space for humans to apply moral knowledge, it is also the space to err profoundly. The politics that comes with the interpretations of the court of conscience, like with any court, requires our unwaning scrutiny.

DOI

ARTICLE

Chinese Perspectives on the *Ad Bellum/In Bello* Relationship and a Cultural Critique of the *Ad Bellum/In Bello* Separation in International Humanitarian Law

Zhuo Liang, PhD Researcher in International Law, examines the intriguing relationship between *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* from Chinese perspectives and offers a cultural critique of the well-entrenched norm of the *ad bellum/in bello* separation in international humanitarian law (in *Leiden Journal of International Law*, online February 2021). Based on its traditional perception of the world order and the meaning of war, China embraces a holistic understanding of the *ad bellum/in bello* relationship, construed as essentially harmonised, following the cardinal moral principle that a just war should be conducted in a just way. The *ad bellum/in bello* separation has a Western origin; it is assumed that *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* are irreconcilably in conflict once they come into contact with one another. Chinese perspectives nevertheless evidence that this conventional line of thinking, hampering scholars from thinking beyond the sealed *ad bellum/in bello* separation, is not sound. A proposal for a more constructive solution should be taken into consideration.

DOI

ARTICLE

The Human Side of Protecting Foreign Investment

In this article, **Dorothea Endres**, PhD Researcher in International Law, looks at the role stereotypes play in the development of the relation between human rights and investment law (in *Transnational Legal Theory*, online May 2021). International human rights law not only protects from discrimination based on stereotypes but also creates and reiterates stereotypes. These stereotypes may entrench differences between communities but also bear potential for new convergences. The author argues that we need to focus on the humans producing the transnational legal discourse and the process of normalisation of those humans in order to destabilise stereotypes that hinder possible convergences of human rights and investment community.

DOI

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

War Economies and Humanitarian Action

Foreign aid is part and parcel of contemporary war economies. The economic agendas and financing of non-state armed groups have a direct bearing on humanitarian negotiations and outcomes. As the costs of mobilising and maintaining fighting capabilities evolve over time, so does the extent of territorial control by armed groups over people and resources. This, in turn, influences the ability of humanitarian actors to obtain security guarantees, field access, and greater IHL compliance from (non-state) armed groups. Linking theory and practice, **Gilles Carbonnier** illustrates the dynamics at play with several examples drawn from recent civil wars (in *Rebel Economies: Warlords, Insurgents and Humanitarians*, N. Di Cosmo, D. Fassin and Cl. Pinaud, eds., Lexington Books, May 2021). He further examines the implications of economic sanctions on war economies as well as the treatment of detainees and the booming kidnap-and-ransom market.

Publisher

PHD THESIS

In the Hands of the Rebels: Detention by Armed Groups at the Limits of International Law

In her PhD thesis in International Law (2021), **Alessandra Spadaro** studies which international law standards apply to the detention of different categories of individuals by armed groups engaged in non-international armed conflicts. While

most of the existing scholarship focuses only on security detention or internment, she also studies the detentions of armed group members by their own group and criminal detentions for crimes related to the conflict as well as common crimes. Her findings are distilled into ten basic principles that should guide any form of detention by armed groups and that are simultaneously realistic for armed groups to comply with and sufficiently protective from the perspective of the detained individuals.

Interview with Dr Spadaro

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



MONOGRAPH

War

How relevant is the concept of war today? In his new book (Oxford University Press, July 2021), **Andrew Clapham** highlights how, even though war has been outlawed and should be finished as an institution, states nevertheless continue to claim that they can wage necessary wars of self-

defence, engage in lawful killings in war, imprison law-of-war detainees, and attack objects which are said to be part of a war-sustaining economy. He argues that the time has come to admit that the belligerent rights that once accompanied states at war are no longer available. The conclusion is that claiming to be in a war or an armed conflict does not grant anyone a licence to kill people, destroy things, and acquire other people's property or territory.

Publisher

ARTICLE

Illicit Economies through the Lens of Urban Peace: Towards a New Policy Agenda

In this article of the special issue *Illicit Economies and Urban Peace* that he coedited and **introduced** with John Collins and Tuesday Reitano, **Achim Wennmann**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, draws together and discusses the key practical lessons of the special issue as a means to revisit "urban peace" as a policy framework (in *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, online February 2021). He charts the current mainstream responses to illicit economies before discussing the lessons of alternatives to law and order approaches of different case studies. He highlights multidimensional approaches and strong coordination mechanisms, as well as the potential of platform models as governance mechanisms for programmes to transform illicit economies. He also underlines how illicit economies create their own non-state forms of order in which violence has a functional purpose. Building on a political economy perspective, he proposes pragmatic peacebuilding and urban political settlements as a means to regulate and transform illicit economies. In the face of major systemic shifts happening over the next decade, his conclusion underlines the need for a more fundamental rethink about how cities should address the multitude of challenges they are facing.

DOI

ARTICLE

Vigilantes and the State: Understanding Violence through a Security Assemblages Approach

Political scientists have long worked with an analytic assumption that the state holds or pursues a monopoly over the use of force. However, evidence around the world speaks to the contrary, with non-state actors wielding substantial violence. Using a mixed-methods analysis including a household survey and nearly a year of qualitative field research, **Rebecca Tapscott**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy and Visiting Lecturer for the Interdisciplinary Programmes, examines dynamics among violent actors in Uganda (in *Perspectives on Politics*, June 2021). Contrary to expectations, she finds that police and vigilantes complement rather than substitute for one another. State efforts to monopolise violence should therefore be taken as an empirical question rather than an assumption grounding analysis.

DOI

ARTICLE

Perpetual Peacebuilding: A New Paradigm to Move Beyond the Linearity of Liberal Peacebuilding

Academics and policymakers have accepted that the linearity of liberal peace neither reflects, nor should it drive, the tumult of peacebuilding. Nevertheless, practitioners have made merely cosmetic changes to their approaches. Within the “perpetual peacebuilding paradigm” introduced by **Thania Paffenholz**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, peacebuilding is envisioned as an ever-developing process manifested in a series of (re-)negotiations of the social and political contract (in *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, online May 2021). Notions of success and failure and concepts such as “tracks” and “peace agreements” are abandoned, and peace is both utopian and subjective. Lastly, the peacebuilding community is called upon to display greater courage and creativity.

Repository

ARTICLE

Valuation Responses to Random Changes in Perceived Risk: The Impact of Terrorism on the Defence Sector

This study explores the impact of random changes in risk perceptions that occur as a result of terrorist attacks by examining abnormal variations in defence sector valuations. Using a market model event study methodology, **Jamie Fraser**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and **Gilles Carbonnier** measure the market impacts of three different sets of terror events: mass casualty events, events that occur in OECD countries, and events that occur in BRICS countries (in *Defence and Peace Economics*, online July 2020). They test the findings against a series of explanatory variables that capture characteristics of the domestic defence sector for 21 country-level sector indices and characteristics of the event itself. Results demonstrate that the response of the defence sector to terror events depends more on event characteristics than economic characteristics, contrary to much of the prevalent literature. Furthermore, speculation in the defence sector persists for several days following an attack, indicating that investors broadly expect a military response, particularly in the case of mass casualty events.

DOI

THREE EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Researchers of the Graduate Institute have made three contributions to the *Research Handbook on Unilateral and Extraterritorial Sanctions* (Ch. Beaucillon, ed., Edward Elgar, 2021):

– Embedded Extra-Territoriality: US Judicial Litigation and the Global Banking Surveillance of Digital Money Flows

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, North American/European governments have emphasised the importance of money and financial datamining in combating terrorism and nuclear proliferation. The “digitalisation” of money flows is part of this campaign. Adopting new software packages for financial data management is supposed to help global banks and states counter money laundering and terrorism financing. **Grégoire Mallard** and **Anna Hanson**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the time of writing, show how such technologies have embedded the practices of compliance officers in global banks not only in a new transnational set of rules but also in US domestic legal requirements. Deferred prosecution agreements signed by many European headquartered global banks and US judicial authorities in the 2010s remained remarkably similar. The authors also survey how banks reacted to the obligations to install US government-approved monitoring software developed overwhelmingly by US-based vendors. They examine the question of “extra-territoriality” from the sociotechnical viewpoint rather than by a purely textual legal analysis.

DOI

– Unilateral and Extraterritorial Sanctions in Crisis: Implications of Their Rising Use and Misuse in Contemporary World Politics

The world has seen a dramatic rise in the use of unilateral sanctions in recent years. While the uptake of new United Nations sanctions appears to have stabilised, a growing number of countries and regional organisations are employing autonomous sanctions in an increasing variety of contexts, for a growing number of objectives and against a mounting range of targets. These shifts come hand-in-hand with multilateralism’s crisis of legitimacy; a shift in US foreign and security policies under the Trump presidency, including the “maximum pressure” campaign and growing use of extraterritorial sanctions. Teemed with wider counterterrorism and anti-money-laundering regulations, this increasingly complex compliance landscape is again having consequential and widely-documented humanitarian impacts, with the COVID-19 pandemic bringing these factors further into the spotlight. **Erica Moret**, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Global Governance and Visiting Lecturer at the Department of International Relations/Political Science, explores likely reasons for these shifts; outlines different types of unilateral sanctions, and examines ramifications of these shifting global sanctions practices.

DOI

– International Bank Settlement in China and Unilateral Sanctions-Related Disputes: Sources, Remedies and Procedures

Through fieldwork investigations and a review of judicial cases, **Jin Sun**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, completes the first empirical research of unilateral extraterritorial sanctions in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao. He shows how they are different from the US and EU with regard to sources, remedies and procedures. In China, remedies take many forms in practice, not limited to judicial remedies. Local banks and individuals favour administrative, not judicial, remedies. In judicial litigation, to unfreeze money under unilateral sanctions or to settle disputes of international payment, it is not necessary to file a legal review and annul sanctions decision as in the EU. In China, with unilateral sanctions not recognised in court, it could be simplified as a request to honour the payment. In Chinese offshore banking practices in Hong Kong and Macao, the legal orders are the opposite: unilateral US and EU sanctions are officially recognised and enforced.

DOI

Political Economy of Foreign Aid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: A Conceptual Framing

Palestinians are one of the highest per capita recipients of non-military aid in the world. That aid was designed as development programming meant to foster conditions that Western donors considered necessary for peacebuilding with Israel, but it failed to achieve its objectives. Jeremy Wildeman and **Alaa Tartir**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, examine the different donor approaches to understand what went wrong (in ***Political Economy of Palestine: Critical, Interdisciplinary, and Decolonial Perspectives***, edited and **introduced** by A. Tartir, T. Dana and T. Seidel, Palgrave Macmillan, online May 2021). They find four categories: instrumentalism; critical instrumentalism; critics; and neocolonialism, some of which are comfortable with the status quo, and some that want to challenge it. They conclude by arguing that any political-economy-driven analysis or framing of the impact of foreign aid in the Palestinian context necessitates recognising the inherent and embedded structures of power and relations of settler colonial dominance and control in the development paradigm and de-development processes.

DOI of the chapter
Publisher

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The JCPOA's Compliance and Enforcement Framework

A key aspect of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is the compliance and enforcement mechanisms put in place to ensure that all parties continue to abide by the agreement. While JCPOA appears to not have adequately accounted for the possibility of P5+1 non-compliance, it can nonetheless provide valuable lessons for a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East. **Grégoire Mallard** and Postdoctoral Researcher **Farzan Sabet** discuss how different instruments included in the JCPOA and the subsequent UN Security Council Resolution passed to enforce the deal (the Joint Commission, the snapback mechanism, the global nonproliferation sanctions regime that underlies it, etc.) could inspire future parties of a WMDFZ in the Middle East to keep themselves largely in compliance with a future agreement (in *From the Iran Nuclear Deal to a Middle East Zone? Lessons from the JCPOA for a Middle East WMD Free Zone*, C. Zak and F. Sabet., eds., United Nations Institute on Disarmament Research, May 2021).

DOI of the book

PHD THESIS

The Law of the Sea in the Context of the Security Council Action

Through its resolutions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council authorises or compels Member States to act in a way and in doing so, it may alter some of the law of the sea norms, creating a *lex specialis* for the sea. To test this assumption, **Alejandro Villaverde** studies the action of the Security Council in different situations as in collective security, peacekeeping operations, piracy and robbery, migrants at sea and the transport of weapons of mass destruction and finds that the assumption is verified as the content of the resolutions regulates directly or indirectly the general law of the sea in a different sense (PhD thesis in International Law, March 2021). Therefore, out of two norms, only one *lex* must be applied in that specific situation and that is the *lex specialis*, the one that the Security Council has decided to apply in specific circumstances.

Interview with Dr Villaverde
Repository



Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



ARTICLE

De-confining Borders: Towards a Politics of Freedom of Movement in the Time of the Pandemic

Since the onset of the pandemic, the enduring “global mobility apartheid”, which uses citizenship and visa restrictions to police the differential access to mobility founded on race and class, has been

supplemented by a fluctuating “sanitary apartheid”, seeking to separate populations designated as at risk of COVID-19 infection from those designated as COVID-free. Where states have conflated these distinct logics, we have seen eruptive and mutating border violence, argues **Charles Heller**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (in *Mobilities*, online February 2021). Yet, allowing illegalised migrants to move in safe and legal ways is the condition to implement sanitary measures to protect the health of migrants and sedentary populations alike. Besides, the excessive mobility of the privileged through air travel, which has been a major factor in spreading the virus and which contributes to ecological destruction, should be limited.

DOI

*This article is a revised and updated version of COMPAS Working Paper no. 147, 2020 (see October 2020 **Research Bulletin**).*

EDITED BOOK AND TWO CHAPTERS

Research Handbook on International Law and Cities

Helmut Aust and **Janne Nijman** are the coeditors of this handbook which provides a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the impact of international law on cities (Edward Elgar, August 2021). In their introductory chapter

The Emerging Roles of Cities in International Law: Introductory Remarks on Practice, Scholarship and the Handbook

they retrace how cities gradually develop into internationally relevant actors, how this development has been first traced in other disciplines and how slow the scholarship of international law has been catching up with this development. After providing a state-of-the-art overview of the extant literature in the growing field of international law research on cities as actors in international law, they articulate how the turn of the city to the international also finds its limits in international law and institutions, and argue that it is time to take a further step in the production of international law scholarship towards better understanding how international law is transformed through the growing role of cities.

DOI of the chapter

The Law of Economic Globalization and Cities

In their contribution to the handbook, **Jorge Viñuales** and **Lucy Lu Reimers**, PhD Researcher in International Law, discuss how cities are indirectly impacted by international economic law (as objects) and how they may attempt to influence relevant rules of international economic law (as agents). They find that while cities’ regulatory space is increasingly constrained by agreements entered into at the national level, cities as agents largely remain excluded from intergovernmental trade

and investment negotiations. This has prompted some local governments to take foreign economic policy into their own hands.

DOI of the chapter

Publisher

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Planetary Boundaries Intra Muros: Cities and the Anthropocene

The relationship between planetary boundaries and cities is obviously obscure at first glance. After all, responding to the planetary boundaries in a holistic and integrated manner seems to call for global solutions; not city level interventions. Yet, Helmut Aust and **Janne Nijman** show that it is important to downscale governance approaches, if only to solicit support for governing planetary boundaries at all levels of governance, and they portray some of the many promises that a turn to the city seems to bring in this respect, in particular through forms of innovative urban governance (in *Research Handbook on Law, Governance and Planetary Boundaries*, L. Kotzé and D. French, eds., Edward Elgar, April 2021). The authors are, however, also careful to contextualise these promises, and they critically reflect on some of the potential shortcomings that are associated with the recent adoration of cities as more responsible and benign units of governance.

DOI

REPORT

Refugees and Migrants in Times of COVID-19: Mapping Trends of Public Health and Migration Policies and Practices

Vincent Chetail maps how the needs of refugees and migrants have been addressed in COVID-19 responses across countries and how these have varied considerably from inclusive policies to discriminatory practices (Global Evidence Review on Health and Migration 1, World Health Organization, June 2021). Many countries ensured access to healthcare for refugees and migrants regardless of migration status, and several countries also suspended forced returns and prioritised alternatives to immigration detention. Based on the mapping of policies and practices, policy considerations are put forward for an integrated approach to migration and public health policies governing protection-sensitive access to territory, migration status flexibility and non-discriminatory access to health care.

Repository


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Arts, Culture & Religion



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Christian Forms of Religion in Kenya

This chapter opens with a historical overview of Christianity in Kenya. **Yvan Droz** and Yonatan Gez then discuss recent transformations in the field of religion, before examining the political role of churches in Kenya (in *Kenya in Motion 2000–2020*, M.-A. Fouéré et al., eds.,

Africae, 2021). Finally, they describe certain religious practices and show that they are not confined to single religious institutions but instead involve *butinage* or

“church hopping” Such practices are present in various religious forms, and are as much part of Kenyans’ everyday life as they are of their lifelong religious trajectories.

DOI

*This chapter was originally published in French as “Les formes chrétiennes du religieux au Kenya” (see **Research Bulletin** no. 2, 15 February 2021).*

ARTICLE

Vicarius Christi: Extraterritoriality, Pastoral Power, and the Critique of Secular International Law

Does western legal thought, when it comes to secularism, aspire to have its cake and eat it too? So does **Daniel Quiroga-Villamarín**, PhD Researcher in International Law, argue in this latest article (in *Leiden Journal of International Law*, online June 2021). He suggests that both mainstream and critical traditions have tended to presume the secularity of extraterritorial forms of jurisdiction. Instead, he urges scholars of the history of international law to engage not only with the history of the state or capitalism, but also with the past, present, and future of Christian technologies of governance.

DOI


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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

Identities and Public Policies: Unexpected Effects of Political Reservations for Women in India

Identity is an important determinant of economic behavior. While the existing literature focuses on one identity dimension at a time, Guilhem Cassan and **Lore Vandewalle** show that the

multiplicity of identity dimensions matters for economic behavior and that neglecting it may lead policymakers to overlook important, unexpected effects of economic policies (in *World Development*, vol. 143, July 2021). They exploit the randomised nature of political reservations for women in India to show that a policy designed along one identity dimension (gender) alters the distribution of the benefits of this policy along another one (caste). Finally, they propose differences in gender norms across caste groups as a mechanism behind these findings.

DOI

ARTICLE

MINUSMA and the Militarization of UN Peacekeeping

MINUSMA represents a new development in peace missions, due to the insecure transnational context in which it has evolved and its mandate to collaborate with counterterrorist forces in the region. Using Enloe’s feminist theorisation of the concept of militarisation, **Vanessa Gauthier Vela**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, understands the concept as a social process that can be adapted or contested (in *International Peacekeeping*, online July 2021). Her principal argument is that the context of robust peacekeeping, combined with the implications of collaboration with counterterrorist operations and the reengagement

of NATO troop contributing countries, creates a space in which militarisation is reinforced for the mission and its peacekeepers and that this impacts how they interact with one another and what practices they favour.

DOI

ARTICLE

Navigating the Field: Exploring Gendered Dimensions of Fieldwork

Meenakshi Nair Ambujam, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, focusses on the vulnerabilities researchers face – most notably sexualised harassment – that do not always feature in the discussion of fieldwork as a method (in *Tsantsa*, vol. 26, June 2021). She argues that the ethnographic standards we ascribe to often reify particular notions of good fieldwork which obliterate the risks and unpleasant experiences researchers encounter. Fieldwork is undoubtedly an exceptionally valuable methodology that allows us to learn and unlearn, but there is an imminent need to unpack fieldwork and look at it from a non-male perspective.

DOI

WORKING PAPER

Everyday Decolonialities of Feminist Publishing: A Social Cartography

This working paper elaborates a social cartography of feminist academic journals that seek to serve as a site for transboundary feminist reflection and knowledge production (Gender Centre Working Paper no. 14, 2021). By taking feminist journals as spatialities, **Juliana Santos de Carvalho**, PhD Researcher in International Law, and Carolina Oliveira Beghelli explore how feminist journal editors create, maintain and imagine spaces of feminist knowledge production and dissemination. They also provide a detailed account on how these journals reflect and apply decolonial critique and praxis to their work, revealing, however, that this process is plural, fallible and heavily dependent on the local contexts and limitations of each editorial team.

Repository

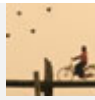
WORKING PAPER

The Seen and the Unseen: Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Prenatal Sex Selection

How is prenatal sex selective behaviour influenced by the presence of cheap fetal gender identification technology and financial incentives? Sayli Javadekar and **Kritika Saxena**, PhD Researcher in Development Economics, analyse a conditional cash transfer programme in India called Janani Suraksha Yojna (International Economics Working Paper no. HEIDWP15-2021, July 2021). By providing access to prenatal sex detection technology and simultaneously providing cash incentives to both households and community health workers for every live birth, this programme altered existing trends in prenatal sex selection. Using difference-in-differences and triple difference estimators, the authors find that the policy led to an increase in female births. This improvement comes at a cost, as we observe an increase in under-5 mortality for girls born at higher birth orders, indicating a shift in discrimination against girls from prenatal to post-natal. The net effect of the policy was that nearly 300,000 more girls survived in treatment households between 2006 and 2015. Finally, the role played by community health workers in facilitating the programme is a key driver of the decline in prenatal sex selection.

Repository


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ARTICLE

Peasant Politics: Subsistence, Justice, and Precarity

The Moral Economy of the Peasant, James C. Scot's pathbreaking second book, describes the social and cultural repertoires through which Southeast Asian peasantries struggled in the 1930s to dampen the ripples and torrents of political and

economic change, in an effort to keep their heads above water. In the years since its publication, and despite this seemingly delimited focus, the book has generated considerable ripples of its own, energising the waters through which it has moved over the last four decades. A number of excellent reviews have delved deeply into the origins, inspiration, and impact of this work. Building on these, **Shaila Seshia Galvin** attempts to grapple with its intellectual energy, to understand something of how *The Moral Economy of the Peasant* became, and remains, a touchstone within and beyond the interdisciplinary field of Asian studies (in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 80, no. 2, May 2021).

DOI

ARTICLE

Friends or Foes? Brazil, the IMF and the World Bank, 1961–1967

Between June 1959 and March 1964, the democratic governments of Brazilian presidents Juscelino Kubitschek, Janio Quadros, Ranieri Mazzilli and Joao "Jango" Goulart received no support from the World Bank (WB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) granted financial assistance to Brazil only twice. This attitude towards Brazil changed significantly following the military coup of March 1964. Money flowed into the country and by 1970 Brazil had become the largest receiver of WB funds and a chronic borrower of the IMF. **Carlo Edoardo Altamura**, Research Fellow at the Department of International History and Politics, and Claudia Kedar use recently disclosed material from the IMF and the WB archives to analyse the relationship of these two institutions with Brazil and to foster the debate on their political neutrality (in *Financial History Review*, online June 2021). They argue that the difference in IMF's and especially WB's relations with the military regime reflected, more than anything else, the existence of an ideological affinity between the parties with regards to the "right" economic policy.

DOI

ARTICLE

Foreign Aid during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Turkey

Turkey provided medical aid to more than 70 countries during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Bugra Güngör**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, explains the distribution of Turkish medical aid across countries relying on a novel dataset which draws on online news published by Turkey's state-run news agency and a pro-government news outlet between February and July 2020 (in *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, online April 2021). Receiving Turkish medical aid is extensively related to the determinants underlying Turkey's foreign aid policy, in particular, recipient countries' historical ties to the Ottoman Empire, their level of imports from Turkey, and their needs based on the state of

their general health system. Regarding cultural similarity, Turkic identity is a predictor of receiving medical aid, whereas Islamic affinity does not have a significant association. The author concludes that Turkey has adopted a selective strategy in response to an indiscriminately damaging crisis while keeping a majority of the elements of its foreign aid repertoire in play.

Interview with Bugra Güngör

DOI

PHD THESIS

Heterogeneous Impacts of Pro-poor Policies and Programmes in Southern and Eastern Africa

In her PhD thesis in Development Economics (2021), **Roxana Elena Manea** studies three pro-poor interventions and their policy outcomes: (1) housing subsidies in South Africa and their impact on inequality in housing conditions and crime; (2) school feeding programmes in Malawi and their impact on enrolment and retention rates; and (3) free primary education in Tanzania and its impact on educational achievement and gender gaps. Assessing the impact heterogeneity of these policies and their intended and unintended effects allows her to compile evidence on their strengths and limitations, with the aim of informing decision-making processes in relation to the implementation of such interventions.

Interview with Dr Manea


Top



Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

Dispute Settlement in Preferential Trade Agreements and the WTO: A Network Analysis of Idleness and Choice of Forum

The low number of disputes under preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and the many WTO cases, including between PTA partners, lead to the assumption that

WTO members prefer WTO dispute settlement. **Vincent Beyer**, PhD Researcher in International Law, analyses PTA and dispute networks to show that the share of WTO cases that could have been settled under PTAs is far lower than commonly believed (in *European Journal of International Law*, vol 32, no. 2, May 2021). There is no preference for WTO dispute settlement but often an absence of choice. PTAs are unable to act as a substitute for WTO dispute settlement.

DOI

DISCUSSION PAPER

Market Power and Price Exposure: Learning from Changes in Renewables' Regulation

In many regulatory settings, regulators often debate whether to pay producers at fixed prices or at market-based prices. Natalia Fabra and **Imelda**, who has just joined the Institute as Assistant Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics, assess how firms' price exposure affects the degree of market power (Discussion Paper no. DP14729, Centre for Economic Policy Research, April 2021). They find that

fixed prices mitigate market power by directly affecting the dominant firms' incentives to exert market power, while market-based prices do so indirectly by promoting the fringe firms' incentives to engage in arbitrage. To empirically identify these effects, they exploit a natural experiment that took place in the Spanish electricity market, where the regulator switched back and forth from paying renewable energies according to fixed or to market-based prices. Overall, they find that fixed prices were relatively more effective in weakening firms' market power, even though the market-based price regime led to more active price arbitrage.

Repository

WORKING PAPER

Fundamentals vs. Policies: Can the US Dollar's Dominance in Global Trade Be Dented?

The US dollar plays a dominant role in the invoicing of international trade, albeit not an exclusive one as more than half of global trade is invoiced in other currencies. Of particular interest are the euro, with a large role, and the renminbi, with a rising role. These two currencies are well suited to contrast the roles of economic fundamentals and policies, as European policymakers have taken a neutral stance in contrast to the promotion of the international role of the renminbi by the Chinese authorities. **Cédric Tille** and others assess the drivers of invoicing using the most recent and comprehensive data set for 115 countries over 1999–2019 (International Economics Working Paper no. HEIDWP12-2021, July 2021). Standard mechanisms that foster use of a large economy's currency predicted by theory underpin use of the dollar and the euro for trade with the United States and the euro area. These mechanisms also support the role of the dollar, but not the euro, in trade between non-US and non-euro area countries, making the dollar the globally dominant invoicing currency. Fundamentals and policies have played a contrasted role for the use of the renminbi. China's integration into global trade has further strengthened the dominant status of the dollar at the expense of the euro. At the same time, the establishment of currency swap lines by the People's Bank of China has been associated with increases in renminbi invoicing, with an adverse effect on dollar use that is larger than for the euro.

Repository

WORKING PAPER

State-Owned Commercial Banks

This paper builds a new dataset on bank ownership and reassesses the links between state-ownership of banks and each of financial development, economic growth, financial stability, bank performance, liquidity creation, and lending cyclicality (International Economics Working Paper no. HEIDWP09-2021, June 2021). Using panel data to estimate the short-and medium-term relationship between state-ownership and financial depth, **Ugo Panizza** shows that there is no robust correlation between these two variables. There is also no evidence of a negative correlation between state-ownership of banks and economic growth. Regarding bank performance, data for the period 1995–2009 are consistent with existing evidence that state-owned banks are less profitable than their private counterparts in emerging and developing economies. However, more recent data show no difference between the profitability of private and public banks located in emerging and developing economies. The author also corroborates the existing literature which shows that in emerging and developing economies lending by state-owned banks is less procyclical than private bank lending. As to the role of fiscal fundamentals, he does not find any difference in countercyclicality between high- and low-debt countries, but countercyclical lending by state-owned banks substitutes, rather than

complement, countercyclical fiscal policy. Finally, lending by state-owned banks helps smoothing production in labor intensive industries and in industries with a large share of small firms.

Repository

PHD THESIS

A Quest for Balance: The Changing Design of Labor Provisions in Trade Agreements in the US, the EU and Beyond

By means of interviews, archival research, analysis of mainstream and specialised media – besides the still limited evidence presented by the existing literature –, **Rodrigo Fagundes Cezar** traces how labor provisions in US and EU bilateral trade agreements evolved between 2000 and 2013 (PhD thesis in International Relations/Political Science, 2021). He finds evidence that change in labor provisions takes place as a way to balance out the benefits that are given to larger corporations in those same agreements, a balancing process that he calls a “balance of promotion” rationale. It follows from his analysis that stronger labor provisions are becoming a necessary condition for the political feasibility of new trade agreements in the US, the EU and beyond.

Interview with Dr Cezar

PHD THESIS

Rationalistic Constructions: An Interpretation of Selected Works by Fabio Besta and His Students at the Regia Scuola Superiore di Commercio (Venice, 1868–1927)

Accounting in the Italian Peninsula used to be conceptualised as an art or a technique. During the late nineteenth century, this changed and accounting was founded as a science. **Marco Maringoni** investigates this change looking at the work of Fabio Besta (PhD thesis in International History, 2021). Researchers have analysed this age of accounting either adopting a descriptive or a technical approach. The author adopts a hermeneutical approach drawing on Martin’s Heidegger’s thought and provides an interpretation of this phenomenon. While on the surface Besta was influenced by positivism and Herbert Spencer’s sociology, in practice it was economics that constituted his *Weltbild* (picture of the world). While Besta claimed to consider social constructs as organisms, in reality his belief in eternal and universal accounting laws reveals a mechanistic mentality and a desire to reach the certainty that only mathematics can offer.

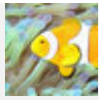
Interview with Dr Maringoni

PHD THESIS

Migrants’ Social Protection Rights within the East African Community (EAC): A Reflection of Social Assistance and Portability of Pension Benefits Instruments

To achieve free movement of people within a particular region, there should be regional bilateral/multilateral social security agreements to provide migrant workers access to social assistance and portability of pension benefits. In his PhD thesis in International Law, **Michael Noel Sam** assesses the adequacy and limits of the East African Community’s social protection regime (July 2021). Drawing on other regions’ best alternatives and lessons, he makes recommendations to improve migrant workers’ social protection rights in the EAC.

Interview with Dr Sam



TWO EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Graduate Institute researchers have contributed two chapters to *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law* (L. Rajamani and J. Peel, eds., Oxford University Press, September 2021):

– Sustainable Development

Jorge Viñuales examines the concept of sustainable development in international

law by reference to three main aspects: (1) the conceptual history of sustainable development; (2) the legal meaning attached to this concept; and, on the basis of these two aspects, also (3) the nature, functions and practical operation of sustainable development in international legal practice.

– Customary International Law and the Environment

Pierre-Marie Dupuy, Ginevra Le Moli and **Jorge Viñuales** analyse the process of custom formation with reference to environmental norms in order to show both the “banality” and the peculiarities of this process. They then examine the content of customary international environmental law as recognised in the case-law.

Publisher

ARTICLE

Spatial Scale Mismatches in the EU Agri-Biodiversity Conservation Policy: The Case for a Shift to Landscape-Scale Design

Agriculture is a major driver of the ongoing biodiversity decline, demanding an urgent transition towards a system that reconciles productivity and profitability with nature conservation; however, where in place, public policies promoting such transitions often poorly fit the relevant biogeophysical systems, decreasing their expected effectiveness. Spatial scale mismatches are a primary example in this regard. The literature reviewed by **Francesca Falco**, Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Environmental Studies, Eran Feitelson and Tamar Dayan suggest fostering policy implementation at the landscape scale, where most functional ecological processes – and the delivery of related ecosystem services – occur on farmland (in *Land*, no. 8, August 2021). Two strategies are identified for coordinating policy implementation: the promotion of farmers’ collective action and the partition of space on an ecologically sound basis through spatial planning. As the new European Union Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2023 is currently being defined, the authors assess if and how the draft agri-biodiversity legislation includes the strategies above and find no comprehensive uptake of the landscape-scale perspective at the EU level, thereby suggesting that a powerful tool to overcome the CAP underperformance on biodiversity is being overlooked.

DOI

WORKING PAPER

Can Adjustment Costs in Research Derail the Transition to Green Growth?

Adjustment costs are a central bottleneck of the transition essential for mitigating climate change. Could they derail the transition to green growth, and if so, how should policymakers take this into account? **Laura Nowzohour**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, shows that such frictions, even minor, materially raise the probability of disasters (CIES Research Paper no. 67, May 2021). Fortunately,

policies can address the problem by instigating a higher and front-loaded carbon tax. What may appear as a policy failure here – a slow transition albeit aggressive policy – actually reflects the efficient policy response to existing frictions in the economy. Furthermore, the risk of getting environmental policy wrong is highly asymmetric and “robust policy” implies erring on the side of stringency.

Repository


Top



Global Governance



TWO EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Graduate Institute researchers have contributed two chapters to *International Law and Peace Settlements* (M. Weller, M. Retter and A. Varga, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2021):

– **Peace Agreements and Territorial Change**

Marcelo Kohen and Mamadou Hébié

examine the relationship between peace treaties and territorial change.

Distinguishing peace treaties from other related agreements, they analyse the critical role that peace treaties play in the acquisition of territorial sovereignty following the use of force, both under contemporary and classical international law. In this regard, they maintain that, besides cases of *debellatio*, conquest alone was never a valid title to territorial sovereignty. Based on the difference of the applicable legal regimes, they distinguish peace treaties concluded between independent states from those concluded as part of the process of accession of a people to independence, as well as from those concluded with successful secessionist entities. In addition, particular attention is paid to the great variety of territorial clauses contained in peace treaties.

DOI

– **Political Economy, International Law and Peace Agreements**

International lawyers and political economists look at exits from armed conflict from different perspectives. From a legal perspective, the role of law has been to provide a framework to regulate the use of force and to articulate a common vision of the pathways towards constitutional democracies. In the post-Cold War period, the UN and other international actors hoped to end armed conflict through peace agreements, peacekeeping, statebuilding and peacebuilding – summarised as creating a “liberal peace”. But armed conflicts have become internal and complex – and there has been widespread recognition that the “liberal peace” has not, and cannot, deliver. From a political economy perspective, the process of forming political settlements gives some explanation: law is less relevant than the reordering of partisan interests of power holders. This questions the viability of attempts to build a “liberal peace”. The insights of political economy are thus a reality check to inform the search for viable alternatives to prevent or exit violent conflict, argue Andrew Ladley and **Achim Wennmann**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding.

DOI

ARTICLE

Normfare: Norm Entrepreneurship in Internet Governance

In their introduction to *Norm Entrepreneurship in Internet Governance*, their coedited special issue of *Telecommunications Policy*, **Roxana Radu**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, and others underline that this special issue is the first to systematically address the activity we call “normfare” – the assiduous development of norms of very different character (public and private, formal and informal, technically mediated and directly implemented) by different actors (platforms, standard-setters, states) as an answer to the wide range of challenges facing internet governance (vol. 45, no. 6, July 2021). They also define the key concepts applicable to norm entrepreneurship and discuss their interplay in internet governance debates, followed by an overview of the contributions from leading anthropologists, technologists, political scientists, legal and communication scholars.

DOI

ARTICLE

Bypassing the Dutch Monopoly of Relations with Japan: Vasily Golovnin's Captivity (1811–1813)

The turn of the nineteenth century saw an increasing encroachment of Russian explorations into and around isolationist Japan, culminating with the capture and imprisonment of Russian naval captain Vasily Golovnin in 1811. These Russian attempts to “open” Japan were a threat to the established contact between Japan and Europe through the Dutch base in Dejima at Nagasaki, which gave the Dutch a monopoly on relations and the transfer of knowledge between Japan and Europe. However, Russia's imperial designs in the North Pacific and the Napoleonic wars, which reduced Dutch power, threatened this monopoly, offering new perspectives on Japan and throwing political relations with the Japanese Shogunate (Bakufu) into turmoil. Alumnus **Thomas Pierre Gidney** compares Dutch and Russian approaches to contact with Japan at the turn of the nineteenth century and examines how actions such as Golovnin's imprisonment foreshadowed an end for Japanese isolationism and the Dutch monopoly on contact with the Shogunate (in *Terrae Incognitae*, online July 2021).

DOI


Top



Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty



MONOGRAPH

Arbitrary States: Social Control and Modern Authoritarianism in Museveni's Uganda

How do authoritarians survive in democratic systems, however imperfect or partial? Based on ground-breaking field research in Uganda, *Arbitrary States* finds that some authoritarian regimes cultivate

pervasive political unpredictability to maintain control in the face of democratic institutions and weak state capacity. **Rebecca Tapscott**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy and Visiting Lecturer for the Interdisciplinary

Programmes, explains how the Ugandan state uses local violent actors – such as militias, vigilantes, and community policing initiatives – for everyday governance, while denying these actors the ability to consolidate power that might allow them to challenge the state (Oxford University Press, July 2021). Her book contributes to theories of authoritarian institutions, state consolidation, and regime maintenance in low-capacity states.

Interview with Dr Tapscott

Publisher (free PDF also available)

ARTICLE

Humpty Dumpty Populism: Theopolitics and the Retreat of the Politico-theological in Venezuela (and Elsewhere)

Rafael Sánchez, Faculty Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, analyses Venezuelan Chavismo as an unstable formation gnawed by the unsolvable contradiction between, on the one hand, the politico-theological ambition to totalise sociality as a visible “people” collected around the invisible “Spirit” of Venezuela’s “Founding Father” Simón Bolívar and, on the other, the non-totalisable theopolitical energies of a social field suffused with myriad globalised “spirits” that admits no clear-cut demarcation between “visible” and “invisible” or “material” and “spiritual” (in *Social Analysis*, vol. 64, no. 4, December 2020). Incapable of totalising sociality as a discrete “society”, the political logic informing Chavismo, as with other recent populisms, shifts from hegemony to “dominance without hegemony”, a situation where, à la Humpty Dumpty, the “people” is whatever is “lovingly” decreed as such from above, always in tension with a host of deconstructive, often theopolitically imbued agencies and spirits.

DOI

ARTICLE

Société civile et imbrication des durées en Afrique: un retour sur le politique par le «bas»

La problématique du «politique par le bas» s’est en partie définie dans les colonnes de la revue *Politique africaine* sans pour autant en constituer la ligne éditoriale. Quarante ans après, qu’a-t-elle encore à nous dire des sociétés africaines? s’interroge **Jean-François Bayart** (dans *L’Afrique des sciences sociales: bas, débats, combats*, V. Bonnacase et J. Brachet, dir., *Politique africaine*, no. 161-162, Karthala, juin 2021). Elle peut par exemple nous conduire à une meilleure compréhension du concept aujourd’hui galvaudé de «société civile», qui nous permette d’en admettre l’historicité, irréductible aux seules périodes postcoloniales et à ses acceptions idéologiques et, par voie de conséquence, d’appréhender la compénétration des durées inhérente à la formation de l’État.

DOI


Top



Digital Technologies & Artificial Intelligence

ARTICLE

The Changing Role of Multilateral Forums in Regulating Armed Conflict in the Digital Age



This article examines a subset of multilateral forums dealing with security problems posed by digital technologies, such as cyber warfare, cyber crime and lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). **Amandeep Gill**, Director of the Global Health Centre's project on International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR), identifies structural

issues that make it difficult for multilateral forums to discuss fast-moving digital issues and respond in time with the required norms and policy measures (in *International Review of the Red Cross*, online March 2021). Based on this problem analysis, and the recent experience of regulating cyber conflict and LAWS through Groups of Governmental Experts, he proposes a schema for multilateral governance of digital technologies in armed conflict. The schema includes a heuristic for understanding human-machine interaction in order to operationalise accountability with international humanitarian law principles and international law applicable to armed conflict in the digital age. He concludes with specific suggestions for advancing work in multilateral forums dealing with cyber weapons and lethal autonomy.

DOI

SPECIAL ISSUE AND ARTICLES

Dis/connection Matters: Natural, Synthetic, Digital

The world is experiencing new relations between natural, synthetic and digital substances. **Introducing** their coedited special issue of *Tsantsa* (vol. 26, June 2021), **Filipe Calvão**, Postdoctoral Researcher **Matthieu Bolay** and Lindsay Bell underline that rather than considering these substances as materially distinct or ontologically separate, each contribution theorises the mediation, transmutation, and valuation of natural synthetics, the humanness of artificial intelligence, or the materiality of digital elements. The special issue includes the following articles by Graduate Institute researchers:

– From Standard to Region-specific Monocrops: Localizing Industrial Agriculture through Microbes' Taste of Place

Industrial agriculture has promoted the expansion of monocrops around the world, aided by the circulation of highly standardised plant varieties. However, given the adverse environmental effects of this agricultural approach (such as genetic erosion) and the challenges posed by climate change, some biotech companies are trying to complexify industrial agriculture's relationship to "place". They are beginning to consider local particularities in the design of seed products. Focusing on the experience of an Argentinian biotech company, **Diego Silva Garzón**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, explores the creation of microbial seed treatments that claim to be "region-specific" and whose production is mediated by novel meta-genomic techniques. Through the notions of association and mediation, he reflects on the diverse meanings of region-specificity (geographical, environmental, relational) that are mobilised in the creation of these products. In doing so, he highlights the role of computational technologies, plants, and microorganisms in the shaping of scientific and corporate meanings of place.

DOI

– Fabricating the Integrity of Gold in Refineries: Digital Visibility and Divisibility

Gold refineries are under pressure to revise their understanding of "integrity" beyond the physical cohesion of gold products, in order to integrate supply chain due

diligence on human rights, labour conditions, and conflict financing as part of what can be coined the ethical integrity of gold. **Matthieu Bolay**, postdoctoral researcher in the project "Transparency: Qualities and Technologies of the Global Gemstone Industry", interrogates how processes of erasure, through material purification in the refining process, and disclosure, through certification against "responsible" standards, are reconciled within one expanded notion of integrity. By paying specific attention to processes of digitising gold in this endeavour, he argues that, while limited in its role as a transparency device, digitisation fosters new uses of gold, making it more liquid, more rapidly tradable, and potentially more speculative. These digital fetishes open new fields of value, not out of the gold itself but out of its traces, in which, paradoxically, artisanal ground producers selling physical gold remain poorly included so far.

DOI

– From Ashes to Diamonds: Making Lab-grown Afterlife

Filipe Calvão and Lindsay Bell examine the making and makers of "memorial diamonds". These are "natural" diamonds identical to gemstones found in nature but produced in laboratories with carbon sourced from genetic material (cremation ashes) or other objects of symbolic and emotional value. Threading corporality and objectified life forms, the authors examine the transformation from ashes to the "afterlife" of these "living" objects that are at once synthetic and organic. What material and affective properties distinguish synthetic diamonds from those extracted from nature? How are these living and memorialised representations of inert substances – in continuity with bodily elements of the deceased – valued and mediated through "real" human, though artificially grown, natural objects? Drawing from research with the leading companies in the memorial diamond business in Switzerland and the United States, the article suggests that these diamonds' singular connection to the human body offer a window into the transmutations between nature and the artificial, memory and material likeness, life and death.

DOI

ARTICLE

Principles for the Socially Responsible Use of Conservation Monitoring Technology and Data

Conservation surveillance technologies (e.g. drones, remote cameras and social media) can collect data on people, either accidentally or deliberately. **William Adams** and others propose principles for the responsible use of CSTs and their data: (1) recognise and acknowledge CSTs can have social impacts; (2) deploy CSTs based on necessity and proportionality relative to the conservation problem; (3) evaluate all potential impacts of CSTs on people; (4) engage with and seek consent from people who may be observed and/or affected by CSTs; (5) build transparency and accountability into CST use; (6) respect peoples' rights and vulnerabilities; (7) protect data to safeguard privacy (in *Conservation Science and Practice*, online March 2021). These principles require testing.

DOI

ARTICLE

Conceptual and Normative Approaches to AI Governance for a Global Digital Ecosystem Supportive of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

AI governance is like one of those mythical creatures that everyone speaks of but which no one has seen. **Amandeep Gill**, Director of the Global Health Centre's project on International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR), and Stefan Germann suggest a conceptual and normative approach to AI governance in the context of a global digital public goods ecosystem to enable progress on the UN

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (in *AI and Ethics*, May 2021). Conceptually, they propose rooting this approach in the human capability concept. Normatively, they suggest the following six irreducibles: (1) human rights first; (2) multi-stakeholder smart regulation; (3) privacy and protection of personal data; (4) a holistic approach to data use captured by the 3Ms – misuse of data, missed use of data and missing data; (5) global collaboration; (6) basing governance more in practice, in particular, thinking separately and together about data and algorithms. Throughout the article, the authors use examples from the health domain particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic. They conclude by arguing that taking a distributed but coordinated global digital commons approach to the governance of AI is the best guarantee of citizen-centred and societally beneficial use of digital technologies for the SDGs.

DOI


Top



Education, Information & Media



ARTICLE

Deeper Crisis, Higher Skills Demand? Impact of the European Financial Crisis on Demand for German Language Skills

Laura Cyron and **Rahul Mehrotra**,
Research Fellow in Development
Economics, analyse the 2007 European
financial crisis' impact on the demand for

new language skills (in *Education Economics*, online May 2021). The crisis affected German-speaking regions less. Learning German became relatively more attractive for migration and trade. The authors construct a subnational database for German as a foreign language exam (TestDaF) participation rates between 2001 and 2013 and define regional crisis indicators. Using a multiple-group, multiple-period difference-in-differences framework with propensity score matching, they find that TestDaF participation increased significantly in crisis-affected regions, driven by youth and severely-affected Hellenic and Latin linguistic regions.

DOI

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

Milton Santos: Rebel of the Backlands, Insurgent Academic, Prescient Scholar

In her introduction to the English-language edition of *The Nature of Space*, **Susanna Hecht** reminds us that Milton Santos was among the most prominent public intellectuals of his generation (Duke University Press, September 2021). His intellectual ties to French analyses of regional development and American critical geography did much to transform those fields, from their somewhat parochial perspectives to perspectives more engaged in both theory and practice “from the South.” Santos helped transform the understandings of development and provided a robust critique of development planning as it unfolded in the 1960s and 1970s, while simultaneously forging new methods and practices for the transformation of communities, as well as new understandings of how nature, history, and the

complexities of lived life produced citizenship, rights, and the formations of urban and rural life.

Publisher

ARTICLE

Toward a Theory of Institutions: Institutional Betrayal and Dispersions of Accountability at Johns Hopkins University

This article by **Robert D. Smith**, Master Student in Anthropology and Sociology, analyses two recent events at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), the establishment of a university private police force and funding cuts to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Teaching Fellowships (WGS) (in *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, online June 2021). Paradoxically, JHU claimed it was necessary to establish a private police force because of a lack of accountability of the Baltimore Police Department; however, simultaneously JHU was unaccountable to direct JHU affiliates by ignoring their explicit disapproval of a private police force. JHU imagined themselves as accountable to an ambiguous “us” beyond direct JHU affiliates and dispersed its accountability, evidenced by advocating for state legislature and making mayoral campaign donations. This lack of accountability was rearticulated in discussions about WGS cuts, when JHU embraced a rhetoric of the market to substantiate their claims and evade the questions of direct JHU affiliates. These cases show how articulations of who the institution imagines itself as accountable to are dynamically mutating, yet build upon precedents that set the conditions of possibility for how trauma is produced and mediated.

DOI

REPORT

Disinformation and Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Irene Khan, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression and Distinguished Fellow and Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, examines the threats posed by disinformation to human rights, democratic institutions and development processes (A/HRC/47/25, United Nations, April 2021). While acknowledging the complexities and challenges posed by disinformation in the digital age, she finds that the responses by States and companies have been problematic, inadequate and detrimental to human rights. She calls for multidimensional and multistakeholder responses that are well grounded in the international human rights framework and urges companies to review their business model and States to recalibrate their responses to disinformation, enhancing the role of free, independent and diverse media, investing in media and digital literacy, empowering individuals and rebuilding public trust.

More info

Report



Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Organised Crime, Corruption, and Politicians in Mexico

Nowadays, news from Mexico almost always involve some sort of narco squabble between a myriad of groups that remain nearly indistinguishable to the general public. Not so long ago, the Mexican landscape of drug traffickers was very different. While these groups existed, they did so under the cover of a much more stable regime – a partisan dictatorship who engaged in collusion on every level and granted them deals that paradoxically lead to a more peaceful sphere. This all changed in the year 2000, but, as **Claudia Pfeifer Cruz** describes in her PhD thesis, many facets of these relationships have yet to be discovered.

[Listen to the podcast](#)



ENTRETIEN DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE RELIGION ET POLITIQUE DANS LE MONDE CONTEMPORAIN

Islam et politique en Indonésie

Jean-Luc Maurer revient sur les liens complexes et évolutifs entre l'islam et la formation de l'État-nation indonésien, à l'occasion de la parution de son dernier **ouvrage**, *Indonésie: l'envol mouvementé du Garuda: Développement, dictature et démocratie*.

[Regarder la vidéo](#)



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION | E8

When and How Is Power Visible in Politics?

Power is a crucial, if essentially contested, concept. Its nature and exercise in democratic politics are not always easily grasped. Understanding who holds power, how it is used, and the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed, is critical in any political system. **Shalini Randeria**, Director of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, meets with Professor **Steven Lukes**, recently retired as Professor of Politics and Sociology at New York University, to figure out how to map power in politics.

[More info](#)



Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 Wednesday 8 Sept.
🕒 14:00–16:00 online

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Consuming beyond Our Limits: International Law and Consumption-Driven Environmental Harm

By **Lucy Lu Reimers**. Committee members: Andrea Bianchi, president and Internal reader; Jorge Enrique Viñuales, thesis director; Florian Grisel, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, UK.

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